

A

REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, October 25. 1707.

AND thus I have found out two Funds for the next Years War, the Spanish Galeons, or the Pyrates of Madagascar—Take which you will, Gentlemen, or if you will have it, which you can. As to the last, I confess, it is something doubtful, not only whether they will offer such a Treasure for their Pardon, but really whether they have such a Treasure or no; nor till the Experiment is made, is it worth while to talk of it any farther.

As to the First, of taking the Galeons, Vigo is a standing Instance of the Feazibleness of the thing, and all the World is Master of the Case, as to the Value of it.

And this puts me in Mind, how often in a War with Spain, did Queen Elizabeth enrich her self, and furnish not her own Coffers only, but the whole Nation with Treasure.

From the Spanish West Indies, how did Sir Francis Drake plunder the Coasts, take their Towns, and even load his Vessels Home with their Spoils; and at Sea, how often did we meet their great Carricks and Carvels, as they called them, Ships of 1500 Ton, built like Castles; what Work did our Men of War make with them almost every Year?

We are stronger now at Sea a great deal, and the Spaniards much weaker; their Ships are as rich now, as they were then, and I think verily, we want the Money as much—Why then should we not set to work with them the same Way? To say they are stronger now than they were then, and better fortify'd on Shore; This is to be answer'd in French, *a-la-mode à Cartagena*, Monsieur Poincy was not baulk'd, but took the City, tho'

tho' the 12 Apostles defended it, and took their Apostleships away with him into the Bargain.

But besides all this, what shall we say to our Merchants, that fit out Privateers, and cruise upon the French, and make little e-nough of it? And why, Gentlemen, did you never try your Fortune in the Bay of Mexico, or upon the Coast of Cartagena, or in the South Seas, where the French have now so great and so profitable a Trade? Ten or twelve large Ships well man'd and furnish'd, Ships of 40 to 50 Guns each, for such the Dutch have now in the Streights, and in two Bodies, but to act in Concert; they would sweep the South Seas of the French; they would have plunder'd Lima, Panama, and all the Coast of Chili; they would have gone into any of their Ports, and taken the very Shipping out of the Harbours; they would have done any thing they had desir'd on the other Hand, had each Ship carry'd about 10000l. in English Goods, honest woolen Manufactures; the Spaniards would, protect-ed by your Ships, frankly have traded with you, if you had declared Freedom of Trade, and every hundred Pound Sterling had made five.

I have observ'd Abundance of People fruitful in Complaints, that the Spanish Trade is lost, and that Fleets are not sent to the Coasts of America. Really, Gentlemen, the Complaint is not so just on the Govern-
ment, as it is on your selves; have you ever made this Attempt both of War and Trade? Is there any Doubt, but, if you had, the QUEEN's Ships would have had Order on all Occasions to farther your Attempts, and protect you as much as possible from the Enemy? — Why have you not large Vessels Every Year plying the Coast of Mexico, strong enough to trade by Force, as well as by Stealth? Has ever any Vessel gone upon that Trade, but what has met with Success? And do not the Spaniards there want the Trade, as much as we want their Money? 'Tis apparent, they do, by the Prices they will give, when they meet with our Jamaica Sloops, the Engerness they show to the Trade, and the Risque they run for it.

Complain then no more of the Loss of the Spanish Trade, while 'tis thus open to

you, and while you see your Enemies grow rich by it, and while the thing appears so feizable; there is nothing required to this Trade, but to send Ships of Force, and in Concert upon a Joint-Foot, that Emulations and separate Interest might not cheque the Success of the Design, which has indeed been the Ruin of many a good Attempt.

Were this pursued, we should not be so empty of Bullion, as we appear to be, nor be so uneasie at carrying it out again, where the Necessity of Trade requires it, either by Prices or by Trade, or by both, the Supply of Bullion would be renew'd, and the Encrease of our Trade visibly forwarded; for 'tis too well known to admit Dispute, that the Trade to the Spanish West-Indies was both the Life of our Manufactures, and the Fountain of our Bullion. And this was the Reason, why in th. late King's Time, tho' the War pinch'd us harder than it does now, publick Credit being then in its Intancy; yet we had a Supply of Bullion, the Streams full, our Manufactur's went out, and Bullion came in, tho' Spanish Trade being open and free; and this alone made that Prodigy of Management feizable, I mean, the Changing our Coin at a Time, when no Nation in the World, but England, could have brought such a thing to pass.

On the other Hand, Credit has been our amazing Support, and if the Exchequer had not by the most exquisite Management been brought to command a Credit she never knew in England before, and which by the most barbarous Act that ever this Nation knew, was entirely lost; I mean, the Shutting it up in King Charles II's Time; I say, if this Credit had not reviv'd, this War could not have been carry'd on, and that meerly by that one Article, the Want of Bullion.

Never complain then for Want of the Spanish Trade. 'Tis as open as in a Time of War, you could expect it should be; and 'tis open enough, if you had Sould to venture like other Nations, both to trade with, or plunder your Enemies; but we love to sit at home and complain, rather than look abroad and labour, tho' to our own Advantage.

MISCELLANEA.

AND thus Gentlemen, this Author is drawing his Discourse of the Campaigns to a Close for this Year ; and the Jeſt of War, which like a State-Farce, has been acting all over Europe this Year, begins to be too stale to laugh at—All the Heads in Europe are now going to work, to the tricking the intriguing Part, leaguing, caballing, forming Confederacies, and Party-making ; and I doubt not, but we ſhall have our Share of it, of which I ſhall take Notice in its Place.

Ways and Means is the Buſineſſ, raiſing this neceſſary Foundation of all Mischief, THE MONEY, is now the main Thing upon the Wheeſſ—So that contriving new Wars, and finding Money to carry on the old, is the Matter before us.

But is not the Pope a brave Fellow now, that has fir'd a whole Volley of Church Thunder-Bolts againſt the Minifters, and Generals of the Emperor, and the Duke of Savoy?—Indeed, 'tis contrary to the conſtant Practice of the Romiſh Politicks ; for the Popes always uſ'd to take up with the ſtrongeft Side, always uſ'd to fawn upon Conquerors ; but here 'tis juſt contrary, his Holineſſ ſhewſ a moſt undaunted Reſolution in his own Caufe, for he is ſtiffer in the Affair of Naples now than ever ; he is as far from granting the Inveſtiture, and farther from owning King Charles, now the Germans are Maſters of the whole Country, than ever he was ; nor has the Imperial Armies, being at the Gates, nay, within the very Gates of Rome, been able to alter the Reſolution, but his Holineſſ reſolves in the Strength of St. Peter to die a Martyr for his Eccleſiaſtick Dignities and Privileges ; nor is 't unlikey—but this Boldneſſ of the old Gentleman riſes from ſome ſecret Aſſurance he has form'd of Aſſurances ; and this to me is a good Reaſon to believe, the Rumour of a tripple League in Italy, be-tween the Pope, the Venetians, and the Duke of Tufcany, has ſomething more in it, than we have expeſted to find—And I am miſtaken, if in a little Time we do not ſee a

new War begun in Italy. But let them fall out and fall in, I do not ſee, how it can affect us, ſave that it will fill more embarras the Affairs of the Emperor; all which we owe to the Neapolitan Expedition, an Affair the Germans shall have my Thanks for, ironically ſpeaking, as often as I think of the Siege of Toulon.

Nor am I of the Opinion, that the Turk will always be ſo honest, as he has been hi-therto, unleſſ ſome great Revolution at Home put him beſide his Inter'eſt ; the Turk does not uſe to be ſuch a Slave to his Treaties, as this has been againſt his own Inter'eſt, and that when ſo strongly ſolicited too ; but if the Turk ſhould fall in upon the Emperor at this Time, I know not what to ſay of the Affairs of Europe on that ſide ; but this I am perfwaded, it would incline us all to Peace.

I ſhall not enter here into the ſeveral Methods, by which the Turk might advantage himſelf of the preſent Confusions of Europe, and how he would in Effeſt ruin us all at this Time ; I may perhaps have it ſug-gested, that I am writing for the Turk, a Thing altogetheſ as likely, as that I was writing for the French ; and I am perfwaded, there are as many of this Paper ſeen at Conſtantinople, as at Paris—But in gene-ral I muſt own, I expect two new Wars up-on the Stage of Europe next Summer, both which I have touch'd at here, I mean, the Turk and the Italian.

In the mean time let us look a little into the Winter Affairs of the World, Gentle-men, and ſee, what clever Steps are taking now to raise Money for the next Years War ; and where ſhall we begin, let us go abroad first, and take Home in our Return.

The King of France has call'd a Parlia-ment of his great Officers, to conſider of Ways and Means ; where one of the main Questions about Money is, not how the Subjects can pay it, but how to make them do it ; France having for ſeveral Years made the People pay more than they had, has now his Inventions on the Wheel, how to make